

porary roll of the convention, and thus secure control of its organization.

The composition of the committee was peculiar. It had been the practise for many years for each State delegation to nominate and for the national convention, at the close of its work, to ratify the choice of members of its National

Committee to serve for the ensuing four years. In this

way each National Committee, through its control over

contests, had it in its power to make up the roll of the next

succeeding convention, although many or even a majority of its members might not be delegates in that body. In

1912 fifteen members of the committee had failed in their

efforts to be chosen delegates; many of them had been thus

repudiated by their own party by very large majorities.

The total membership of the committee was 53. Of this

number 10 were from the Southern States, not one of which

would give the nominee of the convention an electoral vote,

and four others were from territorial possessions—District

of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Philippines, and Porto Rico—

which took no part in presidential elections. These

three sets of members, 29 in all, actually represented no-

body in the convention, yet they were its controlling and

dominating force. The members of the committee who had

been most signally repudiated by their own people were

the leaders in all acts of the committee, and with them

stood unswervingly on all questions the Southern and territorial

members.

The first act of the committee was to elect

Victor Bose-
water, of Nebraska, who had failed to be
elected a delegate,
chairman, he, as vice-chairman of the
committee, having
been acting chairman because of the death of
the occupant
of that position. The moving spirits in the
committee
were Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania, and
Senator Crane,
of Massachusetts, both defeated as delegates,
and both, like
Mr. Eosewater, not eligible for reelection as
members of
the National Committee. The unconcealed
prominence of
these repudiated leaders in the business of
making up the
temporary roll of the convention, and thereby
securing coil-